8	School and Community Gardens

Evaluation Tools

General Resources

PSE-Specific Resources
- **Community Gardens at Parks**
- **Starting Community Gardens**
- **Land Use Policies, Public Land and Local Government Approaches to Support Gardens**

Elements in this compendium may not be wholly SNAP-Ed eligible. Please consult the most recent SNAP-Ed guidance posted on both the NEOPB and USDA websites for the updated language on allowable activities using SNAP-Ed funds. Local health departments may work with other funding streams and organizations as needed to achieve community change goals and their Policy, Systems and Environmental (PSE) change objectives.

EVALUATION TOOLS

Community Garden Evaluation Tools - American Community Garden Association
Having members of your community garden participate in evaluations will help you better understand the good work going on in your community garden, and it will help you improve areas where members see room for growth.
https://communitygarden.org/resources/sample-evaluation-tools/

Community Gardening Toolkit – UC Cooperative Extension Missouri
The packet is intended to be a tool for organizing your garden, introducing new gardeners to the policies, procedures and people that keep the garden running smoothly, and keeping returning gardeners updated and involved. It is also intended to help gardeners find a clear and easy way to play an active role in the garden's management and upkeep. Although these written materials will not take the place of face-to-face communication with gardeners, they can provide a framework for improving communication and increasing involvement at your garden.
http://extension.missouri.edu/p/MP906

How To Make Healthy Changes In Your Neighborhood - ChangeLab Solutions
Every city and county in California has a local government agency called a planning department or a community development department. These agencies are in charge of making decisions about where grocery stores, community gardens, and farmers' markets are located. This 2-pager identifies eight steps to take to engage with your local planning department to advocate for the incorporation of healthy changes in the general plan for your community.
http://changelabsolutions.org/sites/default/files/8%20steps%20English.pdf

School Garden Wizard
Especially for school gardens a useful formative resource for considering implementation questions/approaches. The website is intended to be a guide for summarizing your goals for the entire project.
http://schoolgardenwizard.org/wizard/

Public Harvest Expanding the Use of Public Land for Urban Agriculture in San Francisco Report - SPUR
SPUR offers 11 recommendations to expand and coordinate the city's institutional support, increase funding and provide more access to public land.
http://www.spur.org/sites/default/files/publications_pdfs/SPUR_Public_Harvest.pdf

PSE: Community Gardens at Parks

Chicago Park District
The Chicago Park District's Community Gardens in the Parks program provides guidance, support and resources to nearly 70 community garden groups across the city.
http://www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/facilities/community-gardens/

ENACT Local Policy Database – Strategic Alliance
Learn more about related PA community health strategies, and how you can make improvements on a local level.
http://eatbettermovemore.org/sa/policies/

The League of American Bicyclists "Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) Program"
Explore this interactive map to see current BFCs by state and to find out what these communities are doing to promote cycling.
http://www.bikeleague.org/bfa

PSE: Starting Community Gardens

American Community Garden Association
Designed to give many different groups the basic information they need to get their gardening project off the ground, from planning, siting and insurance to organizing, managing and troubleshooting.
https://communitygarden.org/resources/

Community Gardening Toolkit - University of Missouri Extension
The packet is intended to be a tool for organizing your garden, introducing new gardeners to the policies, procedures and people that keep the garden running smoothly, and keeping returning gardeners updated and involved. It is also intended to help gardeners find a clear and easy way to play an active role in the garden's management and upkeep. Although these written materials will not take the place of face-to-face communication with gardeners, they can provide a framework for improving communication and increasing involvement at your garden.
http://extension.missouri.edu/p/MP906

Find a Local Extension Office
http://ucanr.edu/County_Offices/

Find a Master Gardener to help you through your local Agricultural Extension Program
http://www.extension.org/pages/9925/state-and-provincial-master-gardener-programs:-extension-and-affiliated-program-listings

The Garden Web - iVillage Home & Garden Network
This forum is meant for the discussion of all aspects of organizing and participating in community gardens. (Note: You must be a registered member to post on the website's forums but it is possible to search and access previous conversation threads without registering.)
http://forums.gardenweb.com/forums/commgard/

Rebel Tomato - **GRIT**
This site was created as a web based tool for designing and planning a Youth run community garden.
http://www.grit.com/farm-and-garden/rebel-tomato-is-off-the-vine.aspx

School Gardens: Let's Move School Gardens
Before you start a garden of your own, read and download this step-by-step guide, which offers important information about how to safely grow your own fruits and vegetables with your students.
http://www.letsmove.gov/school-garden-checklist

PSE: Land Use Policies, Public Land and Local Government Approaches to Support Gardens

California Governor's Office of Planning and Research
Information on zoning laws and community gardens
http://www.opr.ca.gov/s_search.php?q=community+gardens&cx=001779225245372747843%3Avgebw
kbjwi4&cof=FORID%3A10&ie=UTF-8

Cultivating Community Gardens - Local Government Commission
Barriers, such as liability expenses, code restrictions and a lack of resources, which often make it difficult for communities to establish or maintain gardens in their neighborhoods, can be overcome with local government engagement. This fact sheet offers case studies, best management practices, resources and tools for policy-makers regarding creative, cost-effective solutions that reduce barriers and facilitate the creation of community garden programs.
http://www.lgc.org/community-gardens

Dig, Eat & Be Healthy: A Guide to Growing Food on Public Property - ChangeLab Solutions
This guide provides users with the tools they need to access public land for growing food, including sample tools such as agreements between a city and community gardens, a lease agreement between a city and corporation, a license agreement between a city and community organization, and other community garden agreements.
http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/dig-eat-be-healthy

Land Use Policies to Support Urban Agriculture - ChangeLab Solutions
This toolkit provides a framework and model language for land use policies that local policymakers can tailor to promote and sustain urban agriculture in their communities.
http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/seeding-city

A Legal Toolkit for Community Gardens - ChangeLab Solutions
This toolkit is designed to help overcome the legal and practical barriers to establishing community gardens on land that is not municipally owned. It provides several model agreements and other documents that can easily be tailored, simplifying the process of building an agreement that benefits both landowners and the community.
http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/ground-rules